

~~Mr. Theophilus Cibber,~~

A N

E P I S T L E

F R O M

Mr. *Theophilus Cibber,*

T O

DAVID GARRICK, *Esq;*

~~Mr. Theophilus Cibber,~~

[Price Six-pence.]



AN

10

EPISTLE

FROM

641. f. 8
10

Mr. *Theophilus Cibber*,

K

TO

DAVID GARRICK, *Esq;*

To which are prefixed,

Some occasional Verses, Pétitions, &c.

———— Lowliness is young Ambition's Ladder,
Whereto the Climber upwards turns his Face;
But when he once attains the utmost Round,
He then unto the Ladder turns his Back,
Looks in the Clouds, scorning the base Degrees
By which he did ascend." SHAKESPEAR.

*Let them not say in their Hearts, Ah, so we would have it:
Let them not say, we have swallowed him up. Ps. xxxv. 25.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. GRIFFITHS, in *Pater-noster Row*;
And to be had also of Mr. CIBBER, in *Great Newport-
Street, near St. Martin's Lane.* M.DCC.LV.

AN
F. P. I. S. T. L. E.

FROM

Mr. Theophilus Gibbes

TO

DAVID GARRICK, Esq.

Some occasional Verses, &c.



L. O. W. D. O.



P R E F A C E. T O T H E T O W N.

— Now if I hold my Tongue, I shall give up the Ghost.
JOB, C. 13. V. 19.

THIS Phrase has been made frequent Use of, without any determinate Meaning; and is often considered in a vague, or partial Sense;—ask an Author, or an Actor, separately, what is meant thereby?

B

Each

Each will tell you (tis probable) that, "by the Town is meant, the Judging "Few,"—as They will style their Friends;—that is, in other Words, Those who approve, and cry up, their several Performances:—Ask the Theatrical Managers, they will give that as the Sentiments of the Town, which, perhaps, is only what they wish to have said; such Chat as is ecchoed, and re-ecchoed, by their Particular Partial Intimates, or Theatrical Mercenaries:—But to drop them.—I think, the Town may be supposed to include all Degrees of Persons, from the highest Nobleman, to the lowly Artizan, &c. who, in their different Stations, are Encouragers of Dramatic Performances:—Thus all Persons, who pay for their Places, whether Noble, Gentle, or Simple, who fill the Boxes, Pit, and Galleries, in a Theatrical Sense, form the Town; as K--G, L--RDS and COMMONS, in a Constitutional one, make that Great Body, the NATION.

To

To the Town (in the true meaning of the Word) I stand indebted for many Favours.——When I consider them, collected as one great Body, I am at a Loss to express my Esteem, Respect, and Gratitude :——Their Smiles have amply rewarded my past Labours ;—I have felt their Influence for many Years, through strange Vicissitudes of Fortune : As the Servant of the Public, I make bold to publish the following Epistle, &c. whereby it will appear, it shall not be my Fault, if the Remainder of my Life is not employ'd in Endeavours to add to their Diversion.

I grudge no Man his Feast, I only wish to be sure of my own plain Dinner ;——Justice to myself therefore, not Ill-will to any one, occasions me to throw my Case before the Town :——I make no under-hand Solicitations ;—I form no Parties ;—I never did.——I speak openly ;—Wou'd

I had been always as openly dealt with,
by those whose undermining Arts, and
Self-interested Policies, have drove me to
my present Dilemma.—I shall only add,
I remain, with a most grateful Sense of
past Favours, and an humble Hope of fu-
ture Protection,

The Town's

Sincerely oblig'd,

most obedient,

and most devoted

humble Servant,

T. C.

I N.



INTRODUCTION.



WHEN I returned from *Gulford*, in *July* last, I found a Discharge from the *Covent-Garden* Manager, left for me at an unusual Time of the Year, and in an uncommon Manner, under the Hand of one *White*, a Servant of the Manager's: I pitied the Man that sent it——so thought him and his Scribe equally unworthy of farther Notice.

I immediately applied to the proper Power for Leave to try my Fortune at the
little

little Theatre in the *Hay-market*.—His
 G——e most kindly signed me a Licence
 during Pleasure, which I took the speediest
 Means I could to make Use of.—I had
 but a little Time to raise a Company, and
 hastily to instruct some new Pupils whom
 I was obliged to employ. A little more
 than a Fortnight after my Licence was
 granted, with a few unskilled Irregulars, I
 opened the Theatre, and performed there
 ten Nights in about three Weeks ; I spared
 no Pains, but Night and Day attended the
 Business, or I had not been able to have
 proceeded so far :—My Labours were
 encouraged, and I gratefully remember the
 Honour several Noble Personages did me,
 by frequently gracing the Theatre, with
 their Appearance, on that Occasion :—
 I was in Hopes to have strengthened my
 Company by some additional Forces, as
 several new Performers (some not unpromising)
 wished to take their Trials under
 my Tuition ; and was not without Hopes
 of

of being favoured with some Pieces from some Gentlemen who had before given Specimens of their Taste and Humour.— But alas! when *D. L.* Theatre opened,— I was ordered to stop awhile:—Some- what farther passed on this Head, which I cannot so readily communicate;—But, my Epistle, addressed to Mr. *Garrick*, explains it.——

I ceased not to petition, and solicit Leave to continue.——While the *D. of G.* continued at *New-Market*, I employed a Morning, in the following Attempt at a Translation, or Imitation, of the first Ode of *Horace*;——'Twas sent to the *D*——, and not unkindly received;——I then published it in some of the Papers.——Here it follows, with the prefixed Letter printed with it.

L O N-

L O N D O N.

To the A U T H O R, &c.

S I R,

THough I flatter myself I have some
 Taste for the Poetry of others,—
 yet I presume not to boast any great Ta-
 lents that Way myself;—'tis not the Va-
 nity of an Author, but a more grateful
 Motive, occasions me to publish the fol-
 lowing ODE:—'Twill be no Mortifica-
 tion to me, should the Criticks pronounce
 me no Poet.—While the Candour of the
 Town allows me to be an Actor,—and
 the Continuance of their Favours, with the
 Protection of the Great, permits me to get
 my Bread by my Profession.—Such In-
 dulgence gratifies the utmost Ambition of,

*Their most oblig'd, most devoted; and,**SIR, Your most obedient Servant,*

T. C.

An

*An IMITATION of the First ODE, of the
First Book, of H O R A C E,*

*Humbly Inscrib'd to
His G—— the D—— of G——,*

*By his most obliged, most obedient, and most devoted
Servant;*

THEOPHILUS CIBBER, COMEDIAN,

*" 'Tis a Crust, a lasting Crust, for your Rogues,
" the Criticks, &c."*

Vide BAYES, in the REHEARSAL.

O D E.

ATTEND my Patron, Joy, and Pride,
G——N, to ancient Kings ally'd.

While o'er *Newmarket's* spacious Plain,

Swift-footed Steeds for Vict'ry strain,

Their Riders, proud t' have won the Odds,

In Fancy, lift themselves to Gods:

If giddy Crowds, a noisy Crew,

Their wanton Caprice should pursue,

C

And.

And raise some Upstart, from the Dust,
 To honour'd Offices of Trust;
 Another find his Coffers fraught,
 With Riches, by Advent'ers brought;
 A third, mean while, his own Estate,
 Careful, delight to cultivate;
 All *India's* Wealth could not prevail,
 On such, o'er swelling Seas to sail:
 When stormy Winds, with shudd'ring Blast,
 Shiver the Sheets, and shake the Mast,
 The Merchant, at his rural Seat,
 Blesses his little calm Retreat;
 But, when the Tempest's Rage is o'er,
 He quits the Safety of the Shore,
 Refits his Vessel, dares the Sea,
 Dreading disgraceful Poverty:
 The jovial Toper, with Delight,
 Wastes, o'er full Bowls, his Day, his Night,
 In Indolence, out-stretch'd, oft' lay'd,
 By dimpled Stream, in cooling Shade;
 The Souls of many wake to War,
 At Trumpet's Clangor, heard from far,
 Th' Ear-piercing Fife, and thund'ring Drum:
 While sighing Mothers weep at Home:

The

The Sportsman keen, e'er Break of Morn,
 Attends the Hunter's chearful Horn;
 His Heart-felt Joys his Nerves new-brace,
 Envigour'd by the healthful Chace:
 Thus each Man's bias'd by his Mind.
 —While G——, graciously inclin'd,
 Permits me try to please the Town
 (Whose past Indulgence I must own)
 With small Attempts, and Troop as small,
 In Play-house smaller than 'em all;
 Let those, whom vain Ambition fires,
 Boast gilded Domes, or lofty Spires;
 Contented with my humble Lot,
 I'LL BLESS my PATRON, in my Cot.
 With grateful Heart, shall raptur'd THE
 Exclaim——“ *I'm bless'd to that Degree!*”
 “ SUBLIMI FERIAM SIDERE VERTICE.”

After some Delays, and many Attendances, I
 deliver'd a Petition, the Copy of which I have un-
 luckily mislaid, or lost, —but it was to the same
 Purpose as one intended to be sent, printed here-
 with:—On the D——'s Return to Town, after
 a long Stay in the Country, I made bold thus
 to address him.

BLESS'D, Princely Sir, be your Return,
Whose Absence left us all forlorn :

Benighted Men, who've lost their Way,
Thus grateful bless Returning Day.

Once more I beg—May't please your Grace,
Consider my Unhappy Case ;

I've told already my Condition,
Humbly presented my Petition ;

Then—not to press upon your Time,
Or pester you with frequent Rhime,—

Your Grace's Goodness thus I sue to,
Only to Say (the Words are few too)

“ I GIVE YOU LEAVE.”—Those Words renew,
Your Grace dispels my dreary View :

So, when the World was wrapt in Night,
“ BE IT LIGHT,”—said Heaven, and ALL

WAS LIGHT.

Still I remain'd unanswered,—still was in
Hopes, as not having been positively deny'd—
——A Noble Lady was apply'd to, who
most generously and compassionately, undertook
to plead my Cause ; She spoke to it.—She kindly
condescended to deliver to his G— the fol-
lowing Lines.

MAY

MAY it please Your Grace, these Lines to
view,

Their Merit this — They're short and few.

Anxious, my noble Lord, I wait,

To learn, from you, my destin'd State;

Whether I'm doom'd to Fast or Eat?

Tho' Priests, and Doctors, as we're told,

May fasting, sometimes, wholesome hold,

Yet sure, no Curse can Man befall,

Like downright Eating not at all:

Then G——n, not more Great than Good,

By Worth enobled, as by Blood,

Will never from that Goodness swerve,

Nor sentence any Man to starve.

After some other Applications, — This worthy Lady propos'd to deliver for me the following Petition.

T O

T O

His G—— the D—— of G——, &c.

The PETITION of

THEOPHILUS CIBBER, Comedian,

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner is now in the 52d Year of his Age, 36 of which he has spent in the Service of the Public, whose constant Approbation has encourag'd his Endeavours;

That your Petitioner, thro' the (YET unaccounted for) Policies of the Theatres is excluded Both, while several, his Juniors (by some thought his Inferiors) are getting Fortunes therein:

Your Petitioner, at this late Time of Day, dreading the melancholy Prospects of Starving, in, or, at best, out of Jail (from whence he was but lately freed, by the Clemency of the Legislature, on his surrendering his little All to his Creditors) has no Resource, but to pray—

○ Your G——'s wonted Clemency, and Goodness, would please to compassionate the unprecedented

cedented Hardship of his Case, and allow him to continue his Endeavours, for the Remainder of the Season, twice or thrice a Week, to get his Bread, by his Profession, at the little Theatre in the *Hay-Market* ; — which Boon your Petitioner is the more embolden'd to ask, as several of the Nobility and Gentry, his Patrons, wish to see him there : — And, as this Act of your G——'s Generosity can be of no Prejudice to others, — but a Relief to many ; — and is the only Means to prevent your Petitioner's Starving.

The Lady most humanely, appeared concerned for my Condition ; all about her were satisfied, she was in Earnest in my Behalf : — But, at last — she was informed, further Application would be to no Purpose. — Assured of this, I ventured to throw the following Papers before the Public, — and thought I had a justifiable Right to address Mr. *Garrick*, in the following Epistle.

EPISTLE

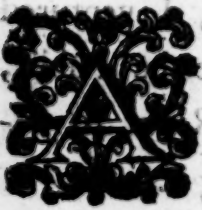


EPISTLE

TO

Mr. GARRICK.

SIR,

 I am certainly indebted to you, for the Negative Answer I have received (after repeated Solicitations) to the Petition, &c. hereto prefixed—Is it not incumbent on me, to return you my Public Thanks, for your extraordinary private Favour?—But, is it not possible, some People may think it a little hard, that an *Englishman*, the Son of an *Englishman*, (whose Birth entitled him to a better Fortune than a Playhouse Promised) and who, in his
Theatrical

Theatrical Capacity, as Author, and Actor, has been judged one of the greatest Ornaments of the *English* Stage) — is it not hard, that His Son, after having spent many Years, with Approbation, in the Service of the Public, should be obstructed in his honest Views, of getting his Bread still in their Service? — and really, by whom obstructed? may one not reply, by the Son of a *Frenchman*, who not content with having amassed a princely Fortune, is still jealous a Shilling should be added to a poor Man's Purse, lest his Coffers should not sufficiently run over?

Alas! mistaken Sir, you need not fear being gay in your Palace, tho' I were to smile in my Cottage. — Can you really think it reasonable, to have my Head taken from my short Shoulders, that you, my little great Man, may appear the taller? — Methinks, you might be satisfied with the Height you have risen to (without obstructing others) as it is well known you are, in a very few Years, in Point of Fortune, become the tallest Man of your Generation, by many Thousands.

It is a melancholy Reflection for poor *English* Comedians, in a free Kingdom, to consider, they are the only Slaves of that Country; but, too true it is: — And to whom are they Slaves? His Majesty? No: His beneficent Heart wishes for none. — To whom then? — Why, to the Patentees of the Theatres (the Actor's Superiors only as Patentees, which they became by great good Luck;) for it is certain, such is their

D

Power

Power—that if Want of Judgment, if Pique, or Caprice prevail, they can render the Abilities of the best Performer very useless Qualifications; they can damn good Performers by their Arts, and push indifferent Ones forward by their Partiality; 'till such Favourites, growing familiar to the Town (and none better being suffered to oppose them) they pass for Actors of established Merit, and the Epithets *Celebrated*, *Eminent*, and *Excellent*, are as wantonly tacked to their Names as in the Marriage Articles of News, when “Master *Aaron Nicknack*, the Son of a “celebrated *Dutch* Toyman at *Wapping*, is married to Miss *Biddy Frissé*, the Niece of an eminent *French* Barber near *Execution Dock*.”

In how much a happier Situation are the *French* Players, tho' in a Country of hateful arbitrary Power? — Tho' Superstition, and Priestcraft, deny them Christian Burial, yet Humanity denies them not a comfortable Livelihood: — Nor is it in the arbitrary Power of the Directors of the Theatres, wantonly to discharge the meanest of them, without Cause assigned; nay, Provision is made for all Kinds of Performers, who, by Age, or other Accidents, become Invalids, after spending their Time in a Theatrical Capacity: — Nor is that Provision such a scanty Stipend, but that it enables them to live with Decency and Comfort. — But you, Sir, may probably know more of this, as your Father, a Native of *France*, was capable of acquainting you more fully therewith.

Think

Think, Sir, what might have been your Situation, with all your Merit (which, believe me, Sir, I am not either ignorant of, or wilfully blind to) but for the late Mr. *Fletewood's* fatal Indiscretions?—Fatal, unhappy Man, to himself, his Family, and Friends,—But for these, which occasioned, at last, his mortgaged Patent to be sold for a Trifle,—and many other happy Incidents, that all, at once, occurred in your Favour, you might have been in my Situation, Sir; —or at best, receiving a Stipend Thousands short of your present Income: Since you may remember, a Cartel (of a cruel Nature) was proposed, and near signing, by the then Managers of the Theatres, —when he who became the Patentee of *D. L. Theatre*, and to whom alone the new Grant was first made (and which before had been denied to you) prudently proposed your being a Partner therein; on which Foundation (I do not insinuate *unmerited*) you have raised a noble Fortune:—Sir, I have employed thrice the Number of Years, you have, in the Service of the approving Public,—and am I, Sir, at last, to be stopped in my honest Pursuit, thro' you, Sir? For, Sir, not to mince the Matter, it is thro' you, I know (and you know) I am delayed. Sir, your Policy overhoots itself, as I shall endeavour soon to make appear, by proving my little Attempts at the *Haymarket*, might be of future Use to you. But first give me Leave to hint—I think this Sort of Treatment I have met with, the less supportable, as it is what I never chose to inflict on others, when in Power. Let me dare to speak Truth, without

the Imputation of Vanity : I remember not any Opportunity I ever slipped, to encourage any Author ; or any Hardship, or Injury, directly, or indirectly, I was ever guilty of, towards any Performer :—On the contrary, I was ever forward to advance them, to the utmost that could be allowed, whenever their Merit seemed to encrease :—Nor did any Partiality to myself, make me use any sinister Means to obstruct the Rising of another.

When you became a Manager, I was in an Article with your Partner ; it was left to your Option to have me as an Actor, at a Salary inferior to what I had formerly received, from Mr. *Fletewood*——who found me of Consequence enough to give me equal to any Actor then in being (Mr. *Quin* excepted, whose Merits had earlier procured him a larger Salary than any Performer had received before). I then persuaded Mr. *Fletewood* (who consulted me on that Occasion) by all Means to add you to the Company, as he then hinted he could have you :—And, tho' he had articulated with me, to give no other Performer a superior Salary to mine, without mine being advanced equal thereto, I consented he should agree with you, on any Terms he thought fit for his Purpose, and declared I would take no Advantage of such Agreement :—You may remember, Sir, our Meeting with you in order to settle such Agreement. There were present the late Mr. *Fletewood* and Mr. *De-lane*, Mr. *Cross*, still living, and myself. You may remember too, I declared (regarding you

as a young Performer of rising Merit) that any Part I had played was at your Service, only desiring Mr. *Fletewood* to allow me reasonable Time to study some others (which I should not be against acting in the same Plays) that I might not, thro' such Condescension, be thought idle, or become useless.

But, to return to my leaving it to your Option whether I should continue in your Company— You may remember my waiting on you, at your Lodgings, in *Covent-Garden*, to that Purpose ;— nor can you, I suppose, forget the Letter your Partner received from me, on that Head :— You must have seen it— it related to you both.—— You best know, Sir, why you then declined my serving you ;— I too, Sir, know your Reasons now ;— I guessed them then ;— and may, at a farther Opportunity, take more Notice of them.—— In the Interim, let me remind you, Sir, I have not made Use of that incontestible Power the Law has given me, to deprive you of a potent Assistant, in your Theatrical Business ;—— Time has taught me to stifle private Resentment, however justifiable, where the Quiet, or Entertainment, of the Public is concerned :— I think it not consistent with my Duty to them, to stop their Pleasure in any one Place, especially when I would wish to divert them myself in another.

Perhaps your superior Policy may arraign mine. But, when I was a Manager, which I

have been Sir (uncomplained of) of His Majesty's Company of Comedians, and might have continued so, had not a mistaken Purchaser bought my Farm over my Head, when I had no Suspicion of such Proceeding; — as a certain set of Renters were lately served — a Case not quite unfamiliar. — When I was in the Management of the Theatre - Royal, I neither endeavoured to force any Entertainment on my Spectators, nor took any Methods to prevent their Diversion in any other Place, — though frequently urged thereto by my Brother Managers, who often consulted some partial Council, in order to suppress other Theatres; — which Meetings afterwards occasioned that outrageous Prosecution against Mr. *Harper*, the Comedian (who by the Way happened to be a Housekeeper in *Middlesex*, and a Freeholder in *Surry*) and in a most unprecedented, and arbitrary Manner, did the strained Power of a petulant *Middlesex* J — ce treat him. — Such was it deemed by a then L. Ch. J. (now an Ornament to the still higher Station he fills) who released Mr. *Harper*, on his single Recognizance to appear, if his Prosecutors thought it prudent to proceed further at Law: — This was after hearing many Council, learned in the Law, on both Sides, — and Mr. *Harper* left the Hall, with the unanimous Joy of several Hundreds, who crowded it on that Occasion.

*Twere ungrateful not to remember an honourable Speech of the Great Man, who then sat on the Bench, — The Cause was appointed to be heard

heard early in the Morning, when some of the opposite Council were for deferring the Pleadings, and treated it as a Matter of little Consequence; that Great Good Man declared — He thought it a Matter of great Consequence, as the Liberty of a Subject was concerned; — that he could not enter on it too soon, — nor should he grudge any Time bestowed on it.

This known Fact was some Years before the Law since made, whereby acting is made illegal, (though deemed by no Statute criminal or bad in itself) unless authorised by Patent, &c: from the Crown, or Licence from the Lord Ch——n; — and, that the Legislature did not mean always to confine it to Two Theatres, in this so great Metropolis, is evident from the unlimited Power (as to Number) which that very Law vests in the Crown, and Noble Personage before mentioned. Many Years before this Law I was in the Profession of an Actor — encouraged by the Candour of the Town; happy in their Smiles: 'Tis not my Business here to remark on that Law; I leave that Task to abler Heads, to whom such Province more properly belongs. — Nor shall I dwell here on the many Theatrical Chicaneries which have been practised against me, when I was most unhappy*; — I may have already tired the Reader

too

* I declare, I do not mean, hereby, a general Reflexion, on my Theatrical Brethren; none will think it needs further Apology, but those who feel the Smart of its Truth: Such are welcome to winch, and be misty — and to such I say, —
'In mine Adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: Yea the Abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not,'
 Pl. 35. v. 15.

too much.—But, as I before hinted (which let me here explain) that the little Theatre in the *Hay-Market* might become a Nursery for young Performers, from whence might be culled, at proper Season, new Actors, for the Advantage of the Patentees, and the better Diversion of the Town, is undeniable. — Thus the Trial of such Performers at that Place, might save the Patentees both Expence, Time, and Trouble: The Murmurs of several Authors might also be stopped hereby — since many Pieces might be here received, when the Managers of the Theatres Royal might but be able to bring many forward, few of the Multiplicity with which they are often overloaded ;— and the Patentees might well suppose, they would ever have the Preference both as to Performers, and Performances, since that Theatre, from its Smallness, and Situation, could never hope to vie with them, to their Prejudice: — Their Apprehensions may be great, but their Danger could be but small.— Yet, whatever their Fears, 'is it reasonable, a Monopoly should be made of any one Profession, for the Emolument of two or three alone, — while all the rest must lie at their Mercy? Would not any Foreigner be astonished to hear that any Set of People, Proficients in any Art (in a free Country) are to work, or starve, at the Will, and Pleasure of one, or two — nay, perhaps, as may be determined by some one who is totally incapable, either by Instruction, or Performance, of furthering, or improving, by Precept, or Example, that Art which he gets an Estate by? What a cruel Condition would the Professors

Professors of all the Sister-Arts be in, thus tyrannically made a Monopcy of, to support the Profusion of a few Ignorants?

Once more, Sir, let me repeat—What would you think,—what would you feel,—thus hard beset as I am?—Would you think it reasonable that no Portion of that Bread, the Town is able, and willing, to bestow, should fall to your Lot?—That you should, to gratify the Ambition, or Avarice, of any rich successful Man, when Necessity urges in the latter Part of your Life, (though bless'd by Heaven with Health and Abilities) be prevented from exerting your Faculties in your own Behalf?—Would you be silent on such an Occasion? Would you not let the World know your Condition? Would you not acquaint such as may not have already consider'd it, that this Metropolis is amazingly encreas'd, that Property is greatly diffus'd; that many Families are advanc'd;—that all Degrees of People go to Plays, as the most rational Amusement;—that there are near thirty times the Number of Spectators there were 30 Years ago;—that six Theatres have flourished in one Season, when there were much fewer Numbers to support them;—and that the Town now have but two to go to?

For my own Part, I have but simple *English* Honesty to proceed upon;—whether that will be of as much Service to me as *French* Jesuitical Policy, Time must determine.—My remaining Hope is in a K—g, whose Benevolence of Heart, were he but a private Man, would make him

one of the first of Characters ; and whose Vertues as a Prince, it will better become me silently to admire, (while a happy Nation proclaims his Praise) than presumingly to expatiate on. — If all other means fail (remember, Sir, you urge me to it) I have still the Right of an *English* Subject, to address that great Power, who is justly stil'd the Father of his People, who is universally regarded as the Fountain of Goodness, as well as Honour:—I will not therefore despair, of still having Leave to gain Bread for myself, and a little *British* Company, in that Theatre, wherein the *French* Comedians have been more than once licens'd.—

It may possibly be remember'd I have sometimes, from the whole Royal Family excited a Laughter of Approbation.—Why then may I not hope their condescending Goodness will consider and relieve the anxious Heart of a loyal Subject, who has often had the Honour of making them smile.—I am, Sir, with all due Deference to your Merit, your real Admirer; —and should have been glad, long since, in a Theatrical Capacity, on proper Terms, to have subscrib'd myself,

S I R,

Your most obedient, &c.

THE. CIBBER.

P O S T S C R I P T.

S I R,

TH E Reason of my writing to you at *this Juncture*, is owing to my having receiv'd my Refusal but Yesterday Afternoon.

I shall take no Notice of any anonymous Answers hereto ; —but if you think it worth *your* notice, you may be assured I shall not fail to reply: And I hope Truth will be our mutual Guide: In the mean Time let me recommend to you the following Text:—

Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk humbly, &c.

Great Newport - Street,
Thursd. Nov. 20, 1755.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

P. 16, l. 4, from the Bottom dele the *Con ma* after *possibls*.
Ibid. l. ult. dele the *Hook* after *promised*.

[72]

1902 FEB 25 C R I P T.

2-1-1

Remitted Yesterday Afternoon.

the following Text:—

... ..

1937 - 1938

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A T A N E